Subject: Butler medal (1864)

Latimer, L.H.

[55 John St.]

1915

tab from original folder

Latomer, L. N.

March 29th, 1915.

Mr. L. H. Latimer,

55 John Street,

New York.

My dear Sir:-

I would like to recall to your memory the very pleasant conversation we had on the evening of June 12th last, when you were at the Numismatic Club. I think you said that either you, or some one that you knew, had one of the silver medals given by General Butler to the colored troops for the Campaign before Richmond in 1864. We have, of course, specimens of the mint restrikes of this medal, but I am desirous of getting a photograph of one of the original medals with the clasp and ribbon complete, and would like very much to borrow one for that purpose if I can do so, and if you can give me any help in this matter it will be greatly appreciated.

I hope some time you will find it convenient to come up here, and take a look at our collection, which I am sure you would find interesting. I am usually here every day except Sunday, and would be most glad to see you at any time.

With kind regards, believe me,

Very truly yours,

Secretary.

No. 55 John St. N.Y.
April 1, 1915.

B.L. Belden Esq.

Dear Sir:—

I have your letter; and this is the situation.

I gave the perfect medal I spoke of, to my brother, who lives in Hartford Conn. He was a member of the 25th Army Corps, and as such values the medal highly.

He will probably be here in June; and I can have him bring it with him; if that will be soon enough for your purpose.

Very truly yours

L. H. Latimer

April 6th, 1915.

L. H. Latimer, Esq.,

55 John Street,

New York.

Dear Mr. Latimer:-

Many thanks for your kind letter of April 1st. I was away when it arrived, hence the delay in replying.

I will be very greatly obliged if you will ask your brother to bring the medal when he comes to New York in June. If I can have it photographed then it will answer my purpose very well as it will be some time after that before the article, for which I will want the illustration, will go to press.

With kind regards, and hoping to have the pleasure of seeing you up here some time, I am,

Most cordially yours,

August 19th, 1915.

L. H. Latimer, Esq.,
55 John Street,
New York.

Dear Mr. Latimer:-

You no doubt remember some correspondence that we had in April last regarding the medal given by General Butler to the colored troops in the Campaign before Richmond in 1864, and that you very kindly promised to ask your brother to bring his medal to New York the next time he should come, so that I could have it photographed for a forthcoming publication.

I have been fortunate in getting a complete original medal for the Society's collection, which I will be able to photograph, hence will not need the one belonging to your brother for that purpose. There is however one thing that I am very anxious to find out about it, and that is whether your brother's medal has his name engraved on the edge, or whether the edge is plain.

In Butler's Autobiography, page 743, is the statement that "there was plainly engraved upon the rim before its presentation the name of the soldier, his company and the regiment." The medal that we have is undoubtedly an original, but nothing is engraved on the edge. I have seen two other original medals the edges of which were also plain, and I am most anxious to ascertain whether this statement about engraving the edge is entirely erroneous, or whether it was done in some cases, and not on

others, and it would be most interesting to know about this particular medal, knowing as we do to whom it was originally given, and in whose hands it has been since, and I will be very greatly obliged for any information you can send me. I would also be very glad to compare this medal with the one we have, should the opportunity offer

Most cordially yours,